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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,596	02/11/2002	Peter Alexander Van Elsas	PTT-121(402544US)	5193

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MICHAELSON AND WALLACE
PARKWAY 109 OFFICE CENTER
328 NEWMAN SPRINGS RD
P O BOX 8489
RED BANK, NJ 07701

EXAMINER

COFFY, EMMANUEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 01/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/890,596

Applicant(s)

VAN ELSAS ET AL.

Examiner

Emmanuel Coffy

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-4 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on October 14, 2005. Claims 1-4 were cancelled. Claims 5-8 directed to a system for "Personal Agent System " are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments regarding the claim for priority and a priori the disqualification of Goldsmith et al. patent as prior art is hereby acknowledged. Therefore, the reference is removed.

Specification

3. Applicant is appreciated for making the requested changes to the specification and drawing. The objections are hereby withdrawn.
4. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
5. All objections not addressed in Applicant's response are herein reiterated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 5-8 directed to a system are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yates, Martin John et al. (WO 96/25012).

Yates teaches a service provision system for use in providing information services over one or more communication networks, has a software infrastructure divided into domains (101, 103, 104, 106.) Each domain has an intelligent software agent (102, 107, 109, 110) and this community of agents sits in a computing environment represented in each domain by a DPE kernel (105). (See abstract).

Claim 5:

A personal agent system within a computer system, the personal agent system comprising: (See Fig. 1-4 and Fig. 10.)

a personal agent sub-system having a plurality of personal agents, each one of said personal agents being arranged to perform tasks for only one single user; (See p.2 , line 12-18; p. 38, line 14-p. 42, line 29.)(“AA Specialisations” and “End –User Agent 202”). This agent anticipates the claimed personal agent since it is told that the end-user agent is “the agent employed when the user has submitted identifiers” (p 38, line 25), and hence each end-user agent is arranged to communicate with one single user. (See p. 22, line 17.)

at least one service agent sub-system comprising a plurality of personal service agents, each of said personal service agents being arranged for carrying out a specific sub-task for one of said personal agents; and (See Fig.10 and Fig. 11 and p. 29, line 14-29)

a coordinating sub-system, comprising at least coordination processor for mutual coordination of actions of said personal service agents for different ones of the users.

(See Fig.4; p. 9, lines 11-15; p. 26, line 26- p.27, line10 and p. 32, line 26-p. 33, line 15.)

Claim 6:

The personal agent system according to claim 5, further comprising a central control unit having addresses of said personal agents, said personal service agents and the coordination processor and arranged for connecting each one of the users to his own corresponding one of the personal agents. (See p. 32, line 26-p. 33, line 15, p. 50, line 18-29)(by tailoring the AA Specialisation from an initial AA to an End-User AA the co-ordinator implicitly has addresses of the personal agents.)

Claim 7:

The personal agent system according to claim 5, wherein said one personal agent comprises means for adjusting the personal agent to the behavior of the associated user. (See p. 38, line 29-30)(this personal agent comprises means for adjusting itself to the "behaviour of the user" via profile information)

Claim 8:

The personal agent system according to claim 5 wherein said one personal service agent comprises means for adjusting said one personal service agent to the behavior of said one user. (See p. 3, line 28 to p. 4, line 13 and p. 43, line 1-20)(The sales agent 207 anticipates the claimed personal service agent and is further configurable via a profile. See pp 41-42)

CONCLUSION

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Sycara K et al. (International Journal of Intelligent And Cooperative Information Systems, vol. 5, no. 2/03, June 1996 (1996-06) pages 181-211 211, XP002099255 ISSN: 0218-2157) teaches "Coordination of multiple intelligent software agents."

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

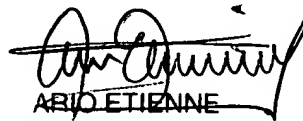
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emmanuel Coffy whose telephone number is (571) 272-3997. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-3997. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Emmanuel Coffy, Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2157

EC
Jan 9, 2006


ARIO ETIENNE
PRIMARY EXAMINER